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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Extension Service
Washington 25, D. C.

January 27, 1947

For administrative use only

TO ALL STATE EXTENSION DIRECTORS:

Subject: Current Farm Labor News - #2

Farm employment increases. According to January 1947 number of BAE's "Farm Labor" there were 7 percent more people at work on farms than a year earlier. Proportionately, the increase in number of hired workers was much larger than the increase in family workers.

Farm wage rates for the entire country on January 1 were 10 percent higher than a year ago and more than 3 times the January 1935-39 average.

Producers Committee. It is my understanding that the committee on permanent farm labor program which met in Washington, D. C. on January 13, 1947 has completed a draft of a new farm labor bill. Some delay is apparently taking place while differences in points of view of national farm organizations are being smoothed out prior to its introduction in the Congress.

Regional Conferences. The two conferences at Salt Lake City and Chicago were well attended and successful in promoting the conference objective of broadening our thinking on farm labor matters. The third and last of the three conferences will be held at Atlantic City beginning tomorrow.

Central States Migratory Program. Farm labor supervisors in session at Chicago last week voted unanimously for an information station and service program for migratory workers similar to the Atlantic Coast program, which has been in operation for three years, and to the Western States program, plans for which were completed at Salt Lake City. The farm labor supervisors of the Central States from the Gulf to the Canadian line will meet at Memphis, Tennessee on February 11 and 12 to thrash out details and agree upon a plan of cooperative action.

Several states have sent schedules of their labor saving shows. This permits labor utilization members of the federal staff to attend nearby shows when they are on field trips. If you have not sent a schedule of your shows, Dr. Vaughan, labor utilization division, would like to receive one.

1946 Annual reports needed now. This year it is essential that the Federal office have complete statistical information on accomplishments of the 1946 program at the earliest possible date. These totals are compiled from summaries of county annual reports made by state supervisors and are due in this office on February 1. Because a few state reports were late, it was impossible in 1945 and 1946 to make a national summary before May 1. At this date we have received only 1 state statistical report for 1946. A complete 1946 summary, as quickly as possible, is important in the framing of future farm labor programs. Please ask your farm labor supervisor to make the forwarding of this report for your state to this office a first order of business.

Yours very truly,

Meredith C. Wilson

Meredith C. Wilson
Deputy Director of Extension
Farm Labor Program

(Copy to: State supervisors)

